Every Saturday, the Gotham Gazette includes a small life-styles piece called "Gotham Is."

In the column, random Gothamites are asked to complete the sentence "Gotham is..." using three words or less.

The Gazette has been running the "Gotham Is" column for years, ever since I was a **boy.**

Here are some of the words used to describe Gotham the past few weeks:

"Damned."

"Cursed."

"Bedlam."

"Murderous..."

Gotham is "villainous."

Gotham is "a losing game."

Gotham is "hopeless."

Prof

YOU'RE ALL OURS, NOW.

NO WAY OUT, BATS.

→SIGH← THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

Once in a while, someone names one of the city's **villains** as their answer to the "Gotham Is" question.

Usually it's some kid, a teenager going for shock value.

But now and then someone actually tries to make the argument that the city is best reflected in its villains.

For example. "Gotham is **Two-Face**," meaning Gotham is a city at odds with itself.

Meaning the city is little more than a cannibalistic **monster**.

Or "Gotham is **Killer Croc**."

I've seen a few "Mr. Freezes."

Two "Black Masks."

Lately I've seen a couple **new names** appear, too.

OIN-

But for me, Gotham's criminals...

...whether old...

...or new...

...will never define this city. Because in the end, they're simple and cowardly, ruled by predictable desires.

RIGHT WISDOM TOOTH. GOT IT.

HUH... TAKE A LOOK.

SAME EMBLEM ON THE THROWING KNIVES USED TO KILL HIM.

IT'S AN *ATHENIAN OWL.* IT APPEARED ON COINS IN ANCIENT GREECE. IT WAS A SYMBOL OF WEALTH AND POWER.

"BEWARE THE COURT OF OWLS, THAT WATCHES ALL THE TIME, RULING GOTHAM FROM A SHADOWED PERCH, BEHIND GRANITE AND LIME. THEY WATCH YOU AT YOUR HEARTH, THEY WATCH YOU IN YOUR BED, SPEAK NOT A WHISPERED WORD OF THEM, OR--"

"...THEY'LL SEND THE TALON FOR YOUR HEAD."

I KNOW THE NURSERY RHYME, JIM. BUT THE COURT OF OWLS IS JUST A LEGEND.

TO BE BLUNT, SO WERE YOU FOR A WHILE.

THEY DON'T EXIST.

AND YOU KNOW THAT BECAUSE...

I JUST KNOW.

WELL, WHOEVER THE KILLER IS, HE WANTS US TO *BELIEVE* THE GHOST STORY.

SO WHAT WE'VE GOT IS A *VICTIM* WHO WAS SOME KIND OF SECRET HIGH-LEVEL BAD-GUY TRAINER, A *KILLER* WHO'S EVEN TOUGHER THAN HIM, APPARENTLY OUT TO GET BRUCE WAYNE...

...AND ALL WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT EITHER OF THEM IS THAT THEY HAVE A THING FOR *OWLS.*

AND THE TISSUE BENEATH THE VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS-- FORENSICS CAME BACK EMPTY-HANDED. ANYTHING ON YOUR END?

*CAVE ACCESS GRANTED TO... NIGHTWING.*

NO...

KNOCK KNOCK.

...BUT I'M LOOKING INTO IT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

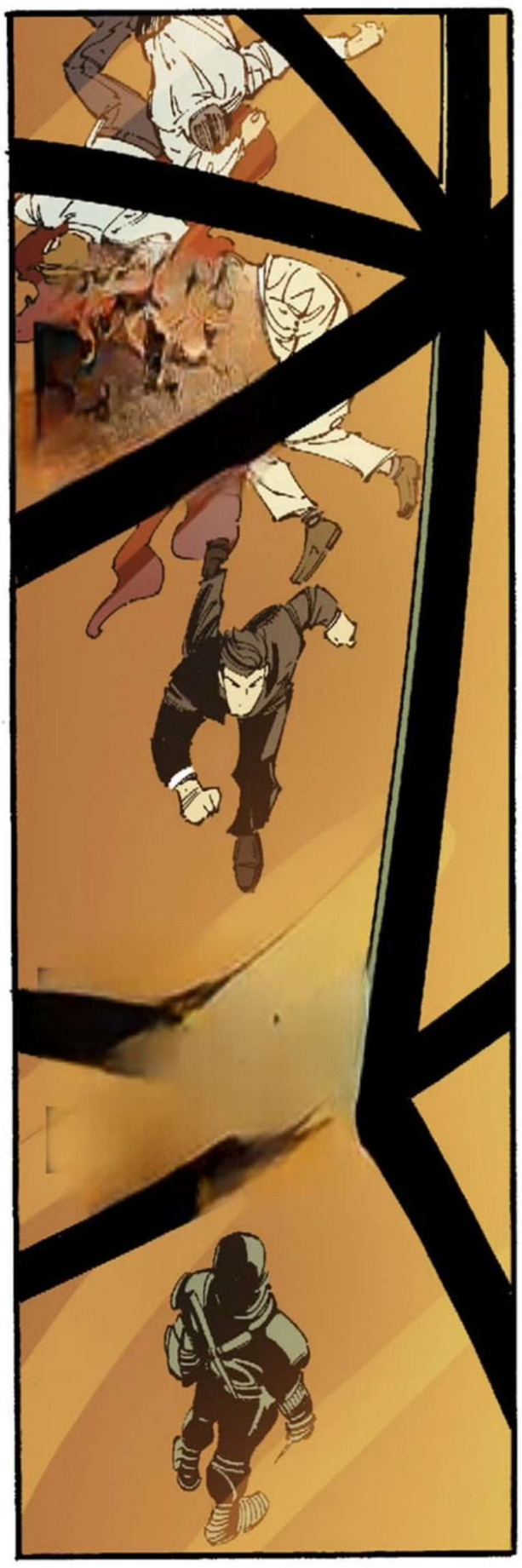
CRASH

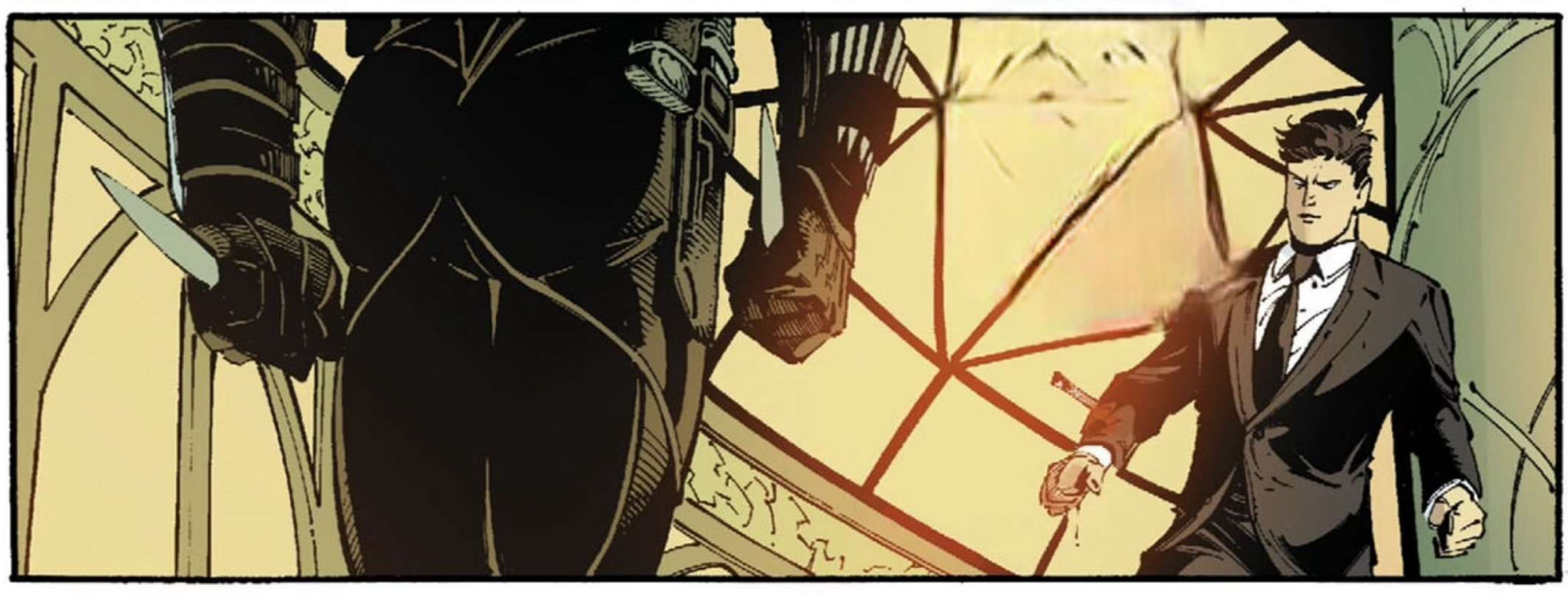
WHAT THE--

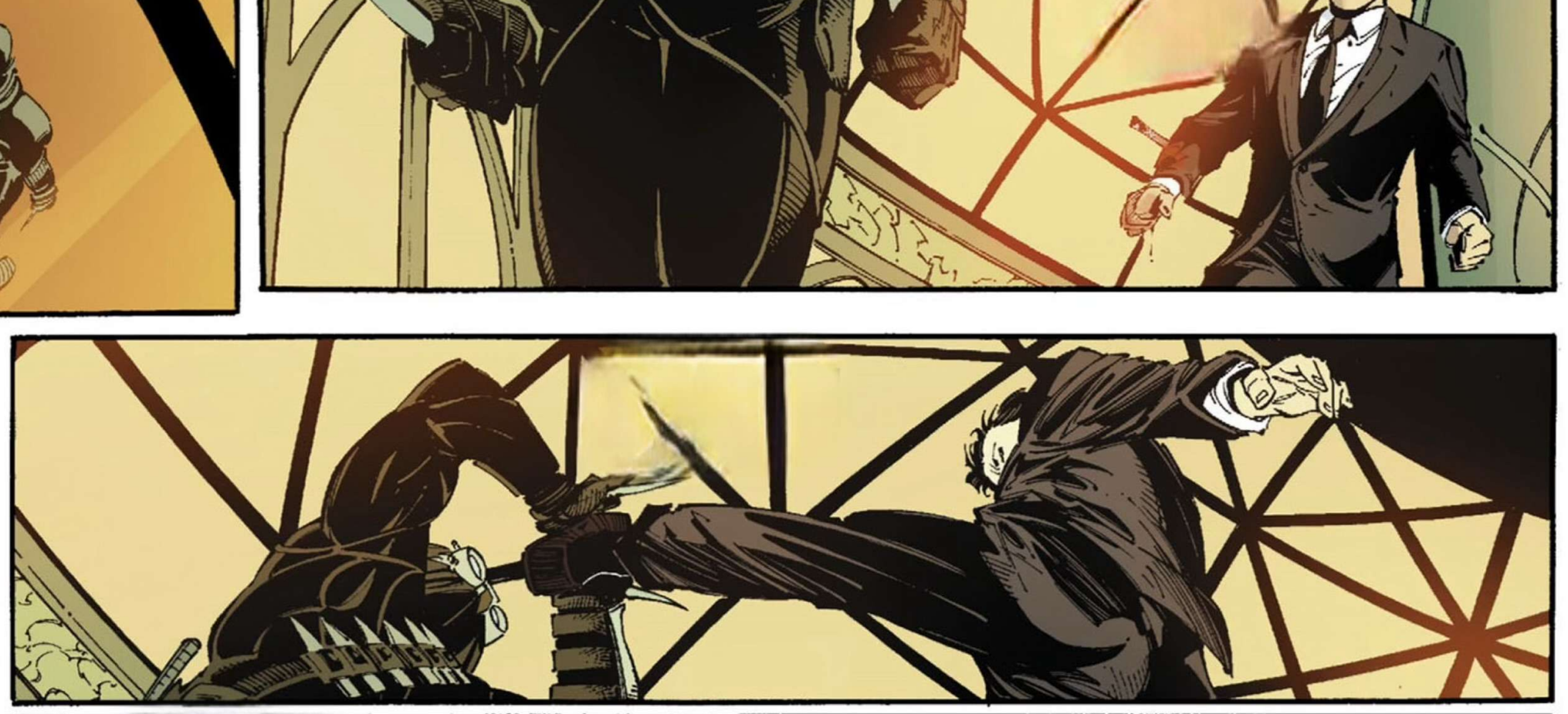
UNH!

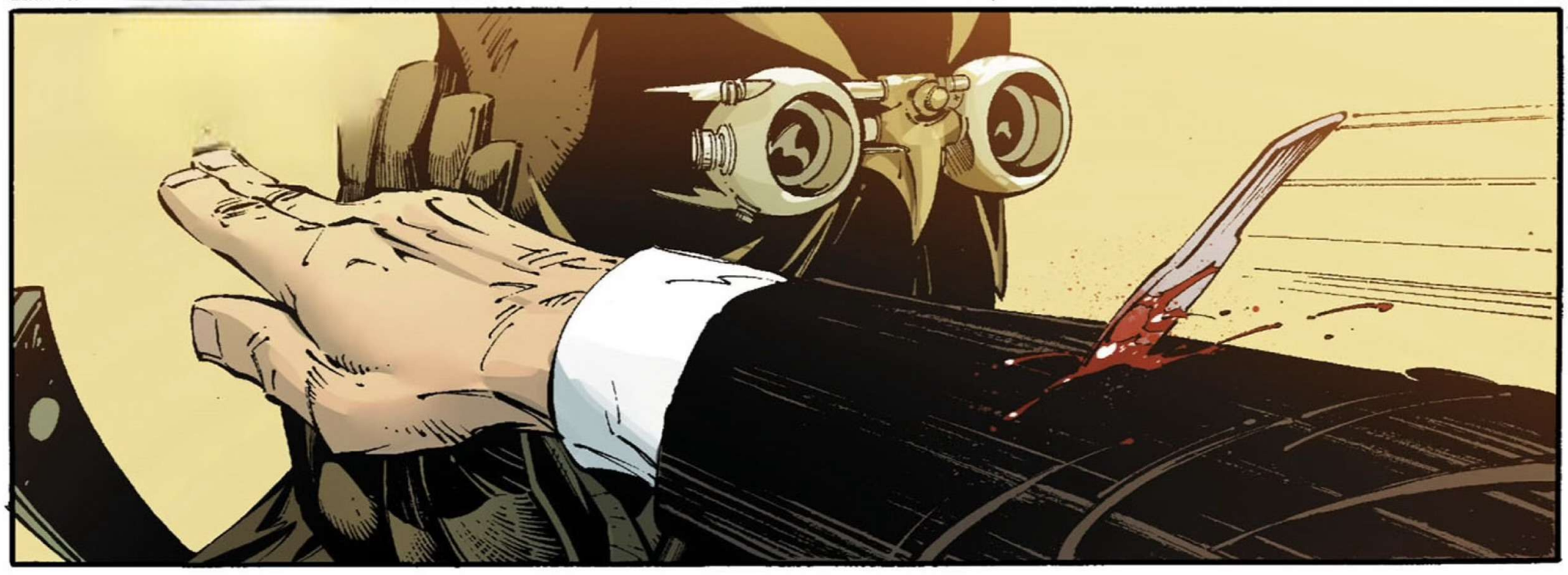
THUCK

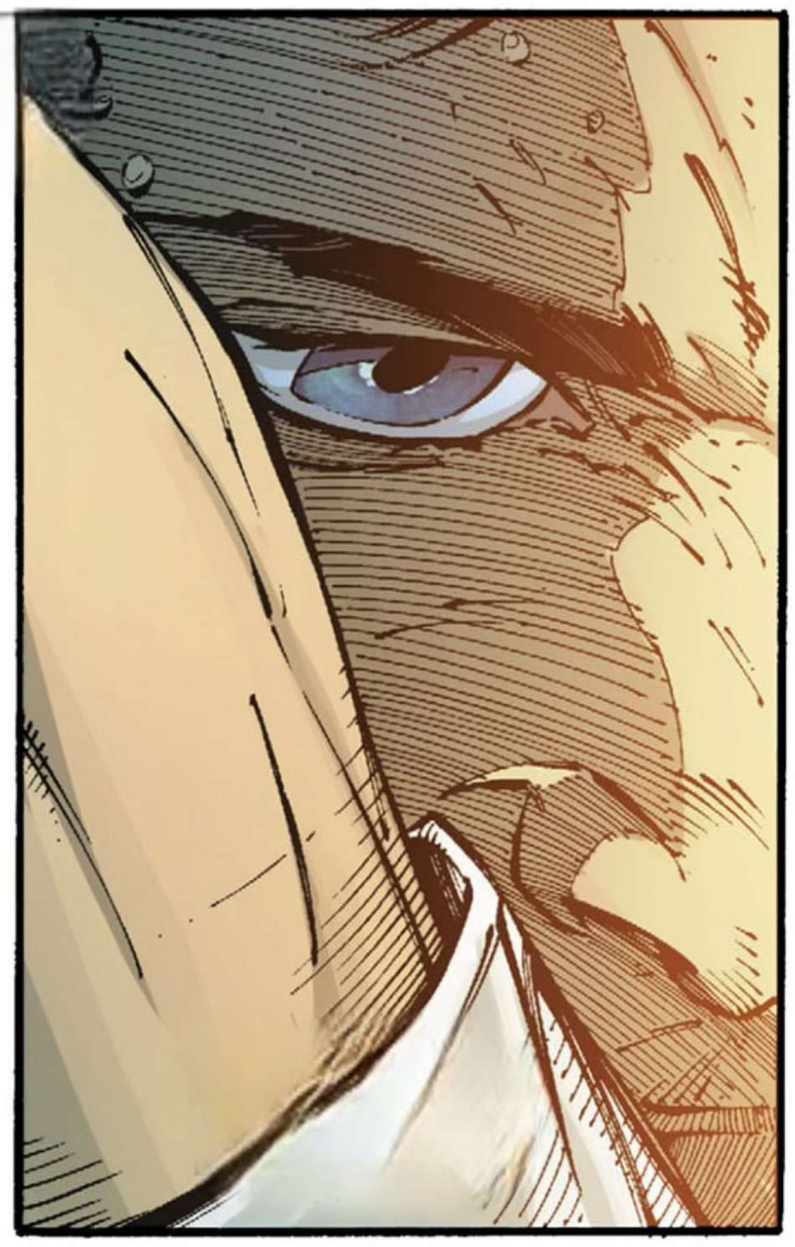
LINCOLN!











Capullo
'11
+fco

Whoever it was that just tried to kill me, he was good.

CCPD

CCPD

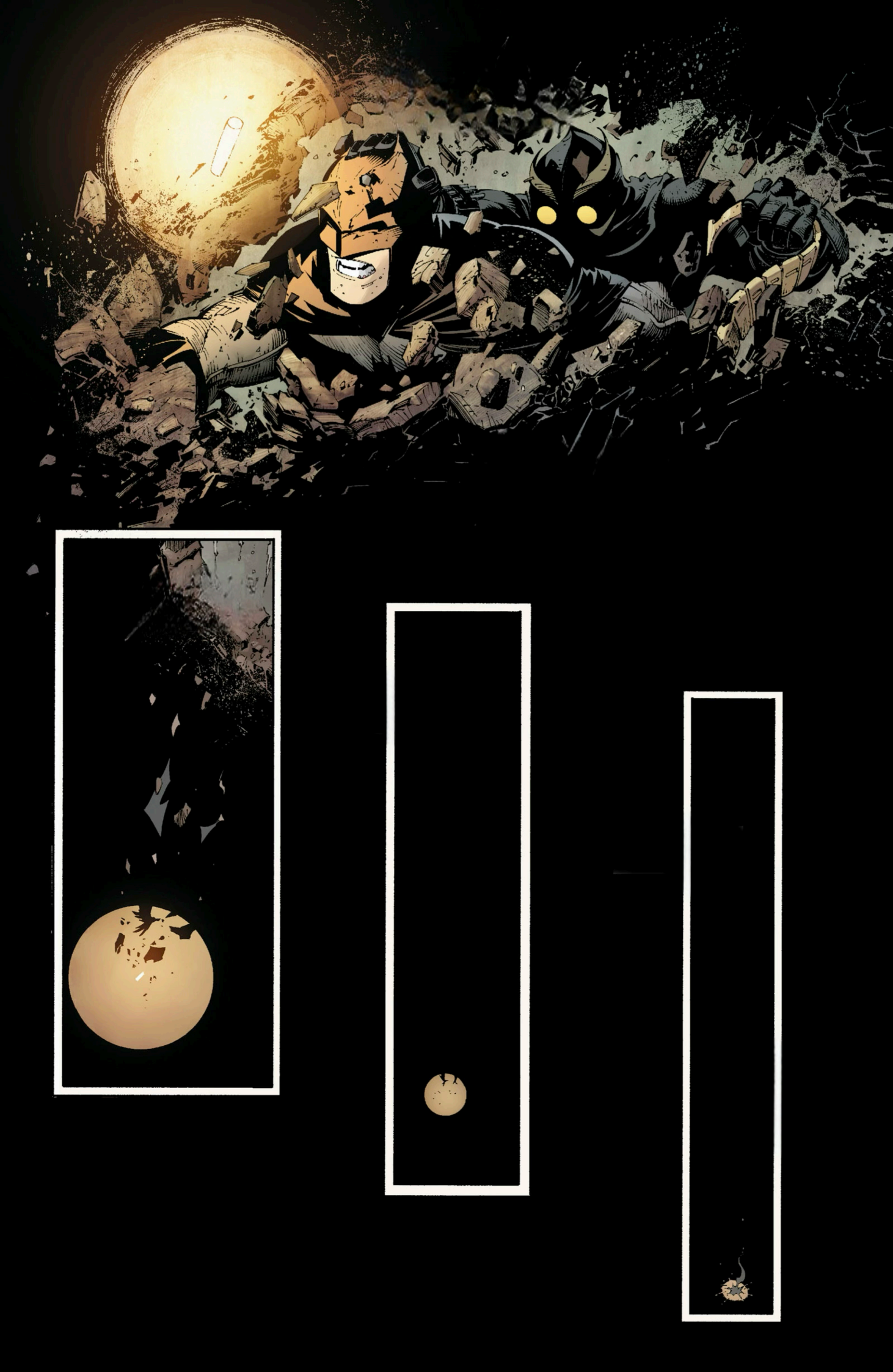
EMT

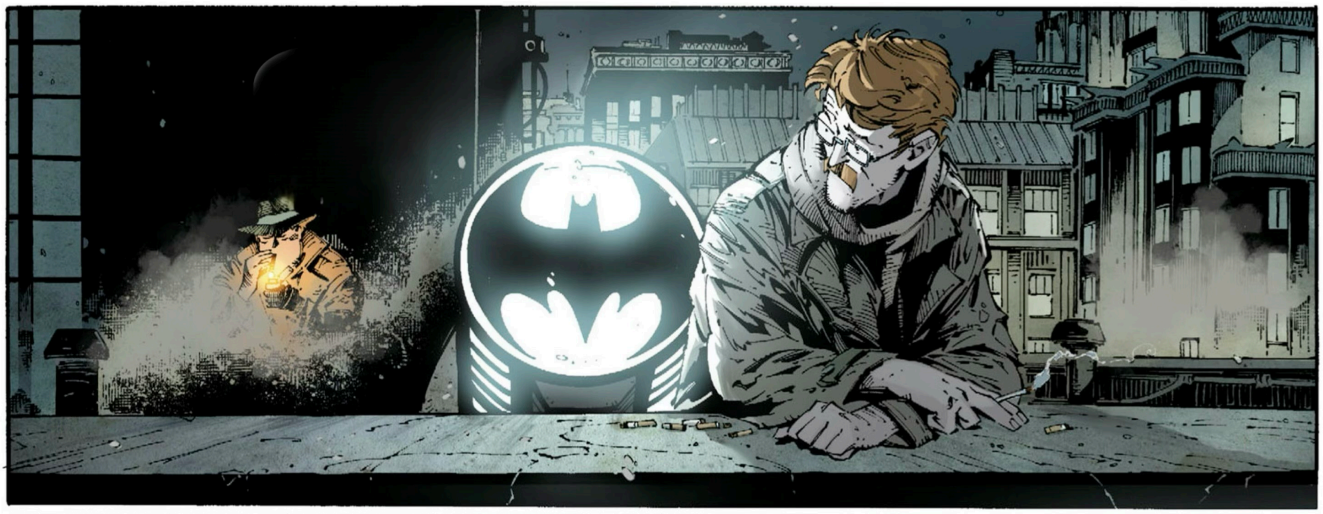
BINGO.

JUNE, 1891
ALFRED.
SIR?

KRABOOOM!

CRASH

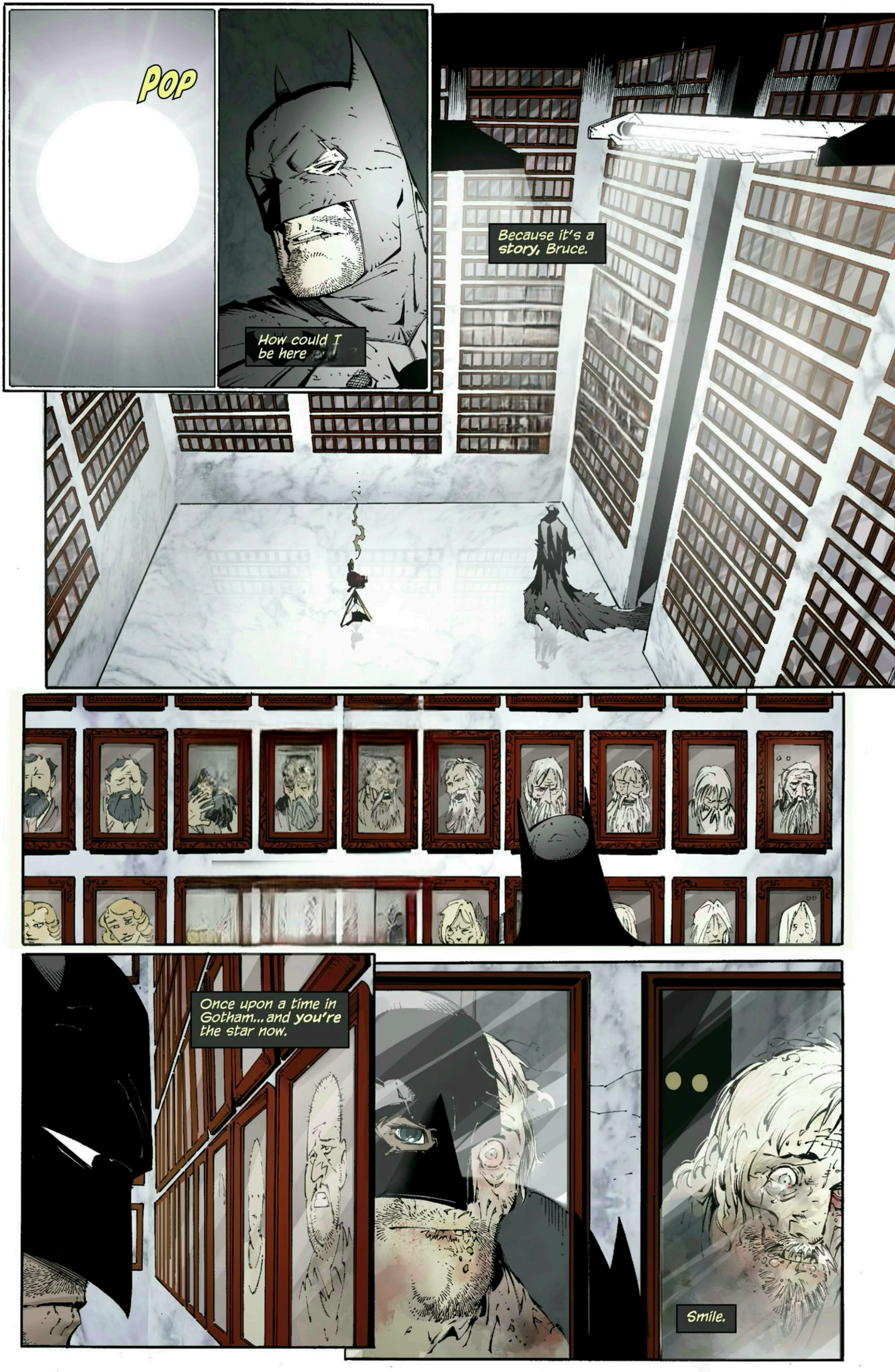




SIGGY. THE BAT SIGNAL.
YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING HIM HOT ALL WEEK. YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW HIS BULB.

LEAVE IT ON, HARVEY.

WELCOME, BATMAN, TO THE LABYRINTH!


Pop
How could I be here
Because it's a story, Bruce.
Once upon a time in Gotham... and you're the star now.
Smile.

DAILY PLANET

FINALLY. I'M HERE.
...YEAH. IT'S GREAT. I'VE SEEN IT TWICE. TWOFER'S GOT TICKETS...
...DON'T WAIT UP, HON. I'M GOING TO BE HOME LATE TONIGHT...
...GERRY CALLED. Uh-huh, ANNIE'S GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL... DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
...IT'S ME. LISTEN, I CAN BE THERE BY EIGHT, BUT I'VE GOT TO LEAVE NO LATER THAN ELEVEN...
...IT'S ALL GOOD. THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED THIS MORNING...
...YEAH. LOVE YOU, TOO...
...I MEAN, WHAT WAS I THINKING? YEAH, I KNOW, YOU WARNED...
...YOU ARE SO WRONG. GOD, IT SUCKED...
...GIDOUTTAMYWAY...
...HONEY, WHAT WAS THAT THING AGAIN LAST WEEK YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME TO PICK UP?
...YOU SHOULD HAVE AN E-MAIL WAITING...
...NO, HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. HE JUST GOT UP AND LEFT...
...KEPT NAGGING AND NAGGING ME. I HADDA GET OUTTA THERE...
HONK HONK
BEEEP
WEEE-OOO
WEEE-OOO
WEEE-OOO
THE MAN WHO COMES FROM SPACE
HONK
BEEEP

EARLIER TODAY
Metropolis
Metropolis
SUPERMAN DEFEATS MECHANICAL MENACE, VANISHES, POLICE
8:59 PM EST
LIVE
NEWS
SUPERMAN
Daily Pla

VICTOR VALE
I'M BUILT DIFFERENT.
LUXE IS LIFE.
BE SEEN.
KORIN
DANTE MORGAN
SUCCESS IS ME.
AURA
BREAKING NEWS
SENATOR HASKELL LEADS IN POLLS AGAIN!
GBS NEWS
LESS THOUGHT. MORE YOU.
LIVE. LOVE. TREND.
xo, Angie ♡
MAXWELL LORD
MAKING TOMORROW YOURS.
LORDTECH
G.O.A.T.
JUST 23
JUST DOMINATE.
FOLLOW. LIKE. BUY.
Tonight!
JAX COLE LIVE
THE BRIDGE BETWEEN FAME AND FORTUNE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU WIN.

RULE THE DAY.
BE ICONIC.
FAME IS FREEDOM.
BUY THE LIFE.

PERFECT IS POSSIBLE.
LUXE BEAUTY

No one asks who printed it.

A so-called Star in the day...
LIVE TO BE SEEN.
HUGS ARE THE BRAND.
BE ICONIC.
LEGACY IS TRENDING.
FAME NEVER SLEEPS.
OWN NEVER SLEEPS.
FOREVER RELEVANT.
OWN THE WORLD.
An offering by night.

GQ
VOGUE
VANITY FAIR
Rolling Stone
GQ

Over and over.
Every part.

NO...
I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU!
I'M NOT LISTENING!
Keep your head straight, Bruce. Focus.
Get back in the dark.
The dark...
...where it's...
...safe?